

March — April 2011

No. 148



# WETLAND *matters*

Published bi-monthly for the Friends and Members of Oxbow, Inc.

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Need a speaker? Call 513-851-9835

## A VASCULAR PLANT SURVEY OF THE OXBOW AREA

by Denis G. Conover, Ph.D.

It has been over 10 years since my prior survey in 1997-2000, and in those 10+ years Oxbow, Inc. has acquired many acres of new land. At the request of the Board of Directors of Oxbow, Inc., I conducted another plant survey during 2010 to add new species to the Oxbow plant list, and to map the locations of rare and invasive plants.

Despite all of the changes that have taken place since the arrival of the first European settlers, the Oxbow area continues to be an extremely important refuge for wild plants and animals. The list of plants identified in these surveys contains approximately 472 species in 86 different plant families. Approximately 66% of the plants on the list are native to the Oxbow area. About 12% of the species are woody. There were 45 new species added to the list during the 2010 survey that were not found during the previous survey. Several of these new species, such as sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*), shooting star (*Dodecatheon meadii*), and glade mallow (*Napaea dioica*), were planted in the new flower bed by the Oxbow entrance sign. Some, such as prairie coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*) were planted in the prairie patches. Others, such as the invasive aliens Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*) and Japanese chaff flower (*Acaranthes japonica*) came in without being planted.

Of the species that were observed in flower during both plant surveys 26 species bloomed earlier during 2010 than during 1997-2000. Average temperatures in the Oxbow area were higher during 2010 than during the previous survey. The earlier blooming observed is correlated with warmer temperatures during the second survey.

Four species of plants currently listed as rare in either Indiana or Ohio were found growing wild on Oxbow Inc. property. Deam's mercury (*Acalypha deamii*) is listed as imperiled and rare in Indiana, and potentially threatened in Ohio. Erect primrose-willow (*Ludwigia decurrens*) is listed as imperiled and on the watch list in Indiana. Virginia buttonweed (*Diodia virginiana*) is also listed as imperiled and on the watch list in Indiana. Smooth buttonweed (*Spermacoce glabra*) is listed as potentially threatened in Ohio.

Other than bulldozers, invasive species are the biggest threat to natural areas. There are several invasive plant species found on Oxbow Inc. property. Some of these include

Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Japanese chaff flower (*Acaranthes japonica*) Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), lesser celandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*), teasels (*Dipsacus laciniatus* and *D. sylvestris*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), Johnson grass (*Sorghum halapense*) and Reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). Control of these and other invasives will keep the Oxbow Land Managers (Kani Meyer and John Klein) and volunteers busy indefinitely.

Despite hundreds of years of intensive use the Oxbow Area still contains significant natural areas consisting of woodlands, wetlands, planted prairies, and river beaches. The area supports a wide variety of native plants and animals. This area is particularly important because of its close proximity to urban areas. It provides a natural area that is accessible to many citizens who do not have the opportunity to visit more remote nature preserves. Now is the time for action to protect more of the Oxbow area, and to restore and improve this precious part of our natural heritage.

**Follow-up:** Dr. Conover also conducted two plant surveys 10+ years apart in Miami Whitewater County Park. A paper published in the journal Ecological Restoration in 2010 based on the work at Miami Whitewater and fortified by the work in the Oxbow was well received internationally for the story it tells about the early blooming of native (wild) plant species in conjunction with increasing average temperatures. The article has been referenced in articles appearing in India and the United Kingdom as well as U.S. news outlets such as Science Daily and USA Today. Oxbow is very proud of its role in providing a venue for scientific study. We are not just about protecting the floodplain, our mission includes improvement of the floodplain which is based on our scientific understanding of the potential of the area to sustain and build the biological diversity found here.

### Make YOUR Birdathon 2011 Pledge Now!

We need your support for one of Oxbow's teams with your pledges. Help us improve the oxbow floodplain.

We can succeed in a big way if ALL Oxbow members pledge money on a per species basis or make a fixed donation to support our teams. Many members have found it easier to send a check for a fixed amount to support a favorite team or the winning team. Participate in whatever way is easiest for you. All required forms are in this issue. You may pledge a lot or a little. 100% of funds raised go to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. for habitat improvement or access improvement.

## A Beautiful Night for a Hike

.....by John Klein

Despite the single digit temperatures and 5 inches of fresh snow cover, 12 adults, two children and a dog took part in the annual Morris Mercer Memorial Hike on the evening of Friday, January 21st. With a clear sky and no wind to speak of, it was a night that Morris would have liked (and I believe ordered for us).

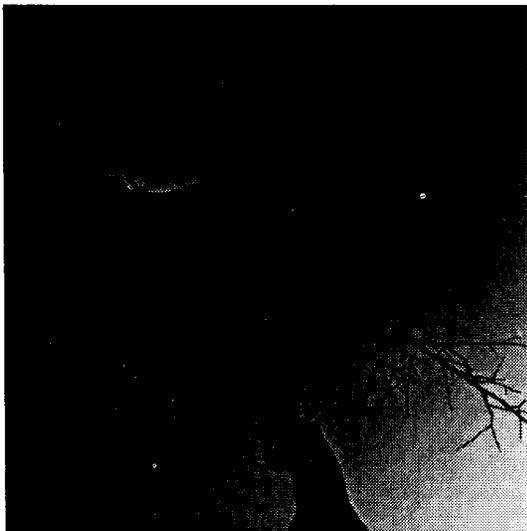
Since the park road was closed past the Golf Clubhouse, we hiked up the road then along Little Turtle Trail. We talked about who Little Turtle was and how the trail got it's name. We also discussed Fort Finney that was not far from the trail and how a flood which destroyed the fort actually saved the soldier's lives. As Morris would say, "The history is so thick in this area that it drips off the trees". A barred owl did not answer my call, but it was a beautiful night to be out. Everyone held up an M&M at the second overlook and "toasted" Morris.

I also talked about the late Warren Wells who had been the Park District's Chief Naturalist through the 60s, 70s and much of the 80s and how instrumental he was to the creation of Shawnee Lookout. We then turned our M&Ms around and toasted Warren as well!

The large bright orange (nearly full) moon came up above the horizon of the golf course just as we got back to our cars.

What a way to end the evening!

*Morris was one of the best men I ever knew. Such a kind and gentle man. He was one of the original "founders" of Oxbow Inc. and its' main spokesperson for many years. He spoke enthusiastically to thousands of people about how valuable the Oxbow area is and encouraged many others to get involved in protecting the area. Morris and I co-led a night hike at Shawnee Lookout during a full moon in January for years. I have been happy to continue the tradition each year.*



## Attention!

### Looking for New Birdathon Participants

.....by Jon Seymour

Would you like to try a Birdathon but it just seems overwhelming? Would you enjoy the Birdathon experience but just can not handle 24 hours of intense birding? Would you like to get started birding and enjoy an opportunity to see a lot of different cool birding areas?

Then give me a call!!!!!!!!!!!!

Each year I try to recruit a person or persons interested in a first-time Birdathon experience. I feel it is easiest to start by going out with someone who has done it before. Some years I succeed and other years I don't find anyone interested in doing it. Birdathon is a great way to get a lot of fun out of birding. You might learn a few new birding spots or approach them in a different way or just plain have fun being outdoors communing with nature. You don't have to be interested in 24 hours of intense birding. In fact at my age, 24 hours is not all that appealing to me anymore, so I am more than willing to tailor the experience to your style and interests. Please give me a call if you are interested and we can discuss what you would like to do. Call me at 513-851-9835.

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## Oxbow's Annual Members Meeting

The meeting opened with the election of John Getzen-danner, Mike Kluesner, Steve Pelikan, Dwight Poffenberger and Jay Stenger to three-year terms on the Board of Directors of Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indians, Inc.. Following the election, historian Tom Strofeldt recounted some aspects of the life of Tecumseh as recorded in the papers of Stephen Ruddell that were preserved by the early historian Lyman Draper. At the age of nine Ruddell was taken by the Shawnee during a raid on his village in western Virginia and became the adopted brother of Tecumseh. One of Tecumseh's first battles was at the mouth of the Great Miami River when he was fifteen. He embodied the archetypical Indian and only used the war club and fought as his forbearers had done. Tecumseh tried to unite the Indian tribes against the European, then American invasion with limited success. Tom did not limit his history to just Tecumseh but filled in some of the history of this area as it involved Arthur St. Clair's defeat by the Indians, Anthony Wayne's defeat of the Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers and the resulting Treaty of Greenville, and William Henry Harrison who had several encounters with Tecumseh

**Oxbow Inc. PROGRAMS**

*To get to the Oxbow, Inc. office take Highway US 50 south from the #16 exit off I-275. Pass the Hollywood Casino exit and turn left at the second stop light onto Walnut St. 301 Walnut is on the right side at the second stoplight at the corner of Walnut and Center Streets. Free parking is available on Walnut St., Center St., and in the parking lot behind the building.)*

**Tuesday, March 8, 2011, 7:30 p.m.  
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg  
The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

Sue Walpole of the Fernald Preserve will explain the site's history and its present mission. There is little evidence now of the uranium production and the thousands of employees once working round the clock. After a massive cleanup, visitors today are greeted with a quiet nature preserve. A reconfigured warehouse that now serves as a Visitors Center, has achieved a LEED platinum rating. The result has been to turn the Fernald property into a community asset.

**Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 7:30 p.m.  
301 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg  
The Oxbow, Inc. Office**

Dr. Herman Mays of the Cincinnati Museum Center will speak on the problem: What is a species? Species are the fundamental units of biodiversity. But, what is a species and how do scientists tell one from species from another? Museum scientists are using modern tools in molecular genetics to gain new insights into the evolutionary history of species.

**Oxbow Inc. FIELD TRIPS**

*To reach the upper Oxbow, Inc. parking lot near the cement plant, turn south from Rt. 50 at the Shell gas station in Greendale, drive back to the cement plant, turn right to the end of the road, then left. The lot is on your right.*

**Sunday, March 13, 2011 9:00 AM  
Meet: In the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main  
Entrance just beyond the cement plant**

**\*Note:** Daylight Savings Time begins on this date. Our meeting time reflects the time change.

**Leader:** Jack Stenger, (513) 503-3389, jackstenger@gmail.com

Many signs of spring should be noticeable by this date so shake off your cabin fever and join Jack on this morning trip to the Oxbow. We expect ducks, as spring waterfowl migration should be near peak, but many other early spring migrants should also be found. Bald Eagles reach peak numbers during March and Sandhill Cranes are also a good bet. March also brings rain and potential flooding to the Oxbows bottoms so some areas can become inaccessible during this month. Jack will adjust his plans of access accordingly on the day of the trip. Jack, who has been birding in the Oxbow with his Dad since the age of six, is a skilled birder and doesn't miss much. So catch "spring fever" and expect to see a variety of birds and other wildlife. Dress for late winter and expect some mud on your shoes. Feel free to contact Jack if you have any questions about this trip.

**Saturday, April 16, 2011 8:00 AM  
Meet: In the upper Oxbow parking lot at the main  
entrance just beyond the cement plant**

**Leader:** Ned Keller, (513) 941-6497, keller@one.net

By the middle of April spring should be well advanced and this past winter weather forgotten. Spring migration will be near peak and a diversity of species should be found in the Oxbow area. Join skilled birder and Oxbow veteran Ned Keller on this morning trip to the Oxbow. Ned's plan of approach for this trip will depend on the weather but he expects to find a mixed bag. Ducks, herons and egrets, shorebirds, raptors and migrant songbirds are all expected on this date. Even an early Prothonotary Warbler is possible. So join Ned on a spring morning visit to the Oxbow. You can always expect some mud on your shoes when visiting the Oxbow. Don't hesitate to contact Ned if you have any questions about this trip.

## Birdathon 2011

.....by Jay Stenger

Birdathon 2011 is just around the corner! This years event will be held on **Friday and Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>**. As always, the event will begin at 5:00 p.m. sharp on Friday evening and end at 5:00 p.m. sharp on Saturday at which time the always fun Birdathon Tally and Party begins at the Oxbow Office at 301 Walnut St. in Lawrenceburg. As tradition dictates, our Birdathon dates are scheduled on the Saturday before Mothers Day (the second Sunday in May).

In 1988, when Oxbow Inc. was in its infancy, members realized we needed an annual fundraiser if we were to achieve our goals and preserve the Oxbow area. So it was that the Birdathon was born. Over the years Oxbow Inc has achieved great success and today well over 1,000 acres has been protected and Oxbow Inc. is in a good position to acquire more land as it becomes available. But Oxbow Inc. continues to need your financial support. With ownership of the land comes the responsibility of stewardship of that land. These days the funds raised from the annual Birdathon are earmarked for habitat and accesses improvements. Many projects have already benefited from Birdathon funds and many other projects are on the table waiting for financial support.

But the Birdathon is more than just a fundraiser for Oxbow Inc. We see this event as a community celebration of birds and conservation during the peak of spring migration and as a way to have a lot of fun while doing it. It truly is a festive event and we have always encouraged other nature and conservation organizations to participate. These organizations form teams and use this opportunity to raise funds for their own groups. Each of these teams is asked to split any funds they raise 50/50 with Oxbow Inc. In this way both organizations are benefited. Last year eleven such organizations participated in this way.

Last years event celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Oxbow Inc. and was a great success. Twenty-four teams made up of 75 individuals representing eleven organizations took the Birdathon field. As a group we found 195 species, and thanks to over 200 donors we raised \$5,292 dollars for habitat management in the Oxbow. Most importantly all that participated had a lot of fun and camaraderie. What can be more fun than birding for 24 hours with your friends on a glorious spring weekend while pursuing a noble cause?

So mark your calendar and help us make Birdathon 2011 a great success. We encourage you to participate in the event, but if you can't do that we hope you can pledge a few dollars to this worthy cause. Bear in mind that the Birdathon is intended to be, first and foremost, fun. You can participate in many ways. You can go all out and try to find as many birds in 24 hours as possible or you can participate for just a few hours from your

favorite deck chair in your backyard. Or you can choose any number of ways in between those two examples. And remember that the main competition in the Birdathon is to see who can have the most fun. See other pages in Wetland Matters for information on how to donate or how to enter a team or yourself in the "competition". Thank you in advance for your generosity and help towards making Birdathon 2011 a great success.

### Oxbow's Wish List 2011

*We need some volunteers to continue the spirit of Christmas into the summer. In the past Santa has filled several of our wishes so we must have been on the good list. We hope that if members know about items and talents that we need, they might realize ways they might be able to help, and may want to play the part of Santa.*

- We need a volunteer interested in interviewing other volunteers and writing up short stories, on the efforts of other volunteers, for publication in the Wetland Matters.
- We need a volunteer to write the specifications and applications to present to the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources to obtain permission to impound 14 acres of flood water during the winter. There is guidance on the internet for how to fill out the documents. Members of the Board would be available as resources to the volunteer.
- We need a volunteer coordinator to make phone calls and send email messages to the many volunteers who participate in our activities through the course on the year.
- We need someone to donate the year round use of a dumpster in the Oxbow area so that we can take the trash we have on a daily basis there for dumping. (We will still ask Rumpke to donate a dumpster on site for large projects.)
- If you have a passion for destroying invasive plants we need someone to build an invasive plant control program for the Oxbow.

If you can help with any of these needs or think you know someone who can, please call Jon Seymour at **513-851-9835**.

### Oxbow, Inc. Honorariums

#### Donor

Mark, Suellen & Jenny Applebaum  
 Mathew & Fiona Green  
 Kemp Jaycox & Cynthia Fink  
 Macie & Jay Van Rensselaer

#### In Honor of

Wayne Wauligman  
 Charlie Green & Constance Lighthall  
 Phyllis Kadle  
 Charlie Green & Constance Lighthall

#### Donor

Kemp Jaycox & Cynthia Fink  
 Tom & Betsy Metz  
 Deborah Wissman  
 Sharon Woodhouse & Kamal Gupta

#### In Memory of

Roy Kadle  
 Persis Long  
 Lawrence Wissman  
 Gary Keese

**Oxbow Inc. would like to thank the following donors for their generous gifts.**

Mary & Patrick Huttlinger  
 Andrew MacAoidh Jergens  
 Jean A. Kearns  
 Seapine Software, Inc.  
 Kathryn Shahani  
 Edward & Marcia Wilz  
 and

The estate of Charlie and Edith Harper for their generous legacy gift

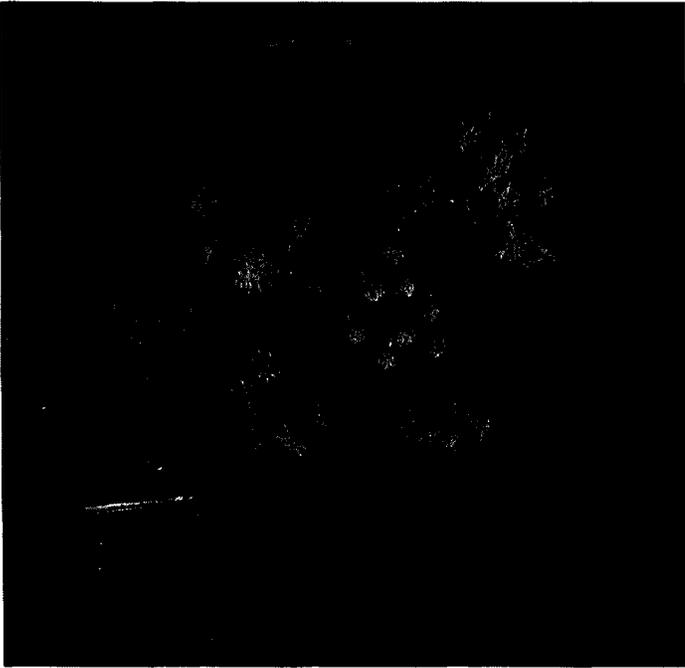
*Oxbow, Inc. has established Memorials in honor of those who have passed on. Each Memorial established in the name of a friend or relative will be enrolled permanently in the records of the Corporation. Each contribution to a Memorial will be acknowledged to the family or to those selected by the donor.*

*Tributes are also enrolled permanently in the records of the Corporation. Some tributes are birthday or anniversary remembrances, holiday greetings or gratitude acknowledgements. If so desired, "Happy Birthday!" or the like can be inscribed in the tribute notice.*

*Contributions should be sent to: Oxbow, Inc., P. O. Box 4172, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025. Be sure to enclose the names and addresses of those who are to receive the acknowledgement.*



While Denis had his eye on the ground, Pat Bell had his eye on the sky, capturing this pair of adult Bald Eagles resting in the Oxbow. The number of nesting pairs of Bald Eagles is increasing and we anticipate more nesting in the lower Great Miami and Whitewater River valleys as the population of young birds reaches breeding age. The Oxbow is a wonderful feeding and resting ground for the eagles providing fishing in rivers and lakes, small animal hunting, and five square miles of relatively undisturbed resting area at the junction of two major water courses. What could be better!



The Blue Mist Flower photo taken by Dr. Conover as part of his survey activities and pictured on page 7 of Wetland Matters issue #147 was incorrectly labeled Miami Mist. (Photo by Denis Conover)



Teasel with attached Monarch Butterfly



Star of Bethlehem (white) and Blue Corn Salad



Wood Poppies (above)

Groundnut (below)



Denis Conover survey of Oxbow plants covers everything from the big trees to the very small. On this page are some of the smaller residents of the Oxbow. Such delights are often missed by the bird watchers with their eye on the sky, but looking down also yields the beauty of nature. The added benefit is that these beauties of nature stay put and let you take their "close-up". (All "close-ups" by Denis Conover)

**2011 Election Results**

At our January Members Meeting the following Board members were elected:

Elected for a three year term on the Board of Oxbow, Inc. ending in February 2014:

- John Getzendanner
- Mike Kluesener
- Steve Pelikan
- Dwight Poffenberger
- Jay Stenger

Similarly the following were elected to the Board of Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. for a three year term ending in February 2014

- John Getzendanner
- Mike Kluesener
- Steve Pelikan
- Dwight Poffenberger
- Jay Stenger

At our January Board Meeting the following Officers were elected.

Elected for a one year term as officers of Oxbow, Inc.:

- President - Jon Seymour
- Vice-President – John Getzendanner
- Secretary – Dwight Poffenberger
- Treasurer – Jim Poehlmann

Elected for a one year term as officers of Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.:

- President - Jon Seymour
- Vice-President – John Getzendanner
- Secretary – Dwight Poffenberger
- Treasurer – Jim Poehlmann

**Moving your nest?**

**Make sure *WETLAND MATTERS* goes with you!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Old Address:**

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**New Address:**

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:**                    **Oxbow Inc.**  
    **P.O. Box 4172**  
    **Lawrenceburg, IN 47025**

**Please mail right away - *Wetland Matters* is third class mail and is not forwarded!**

**Hunting Permit Applications Due July 1, 2011**

Oxbow, Inc. members who wish to apply for permits to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. land must submit their application by July 1, 2011 to:

Oxbow, Inc.  
 C/o John Getzendanner  
 21007 Crestview Ct.  
 Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Your application must include a copy of your valid Indiana hunting license and a completed memorandum of understanding printed below. Cut out the memorandum (on page 11).

Complete the form and mail it with a copy of your license and a self addressed stamped envelop to John. Once accepted you will receive a permission slip to hunt on Oxbow land designated for hunting, east of I-275. Members must have dues paid current to the time of application. Any violation of the memorandum of understanding will result in immediate revocation of hunting privileges.

**Member Communications Committee:**

Jennifer Borneman  
 Joanne Earls  
 Lynda Mason  
 Velda Miller  
 Pat Shanklin  
 Suzanne Skidmore  
 Barb Varland  
 Jim Wilgenbusch



**Oxbow is on Facebook!!!**

Just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) (or use Google to find Facebook) and search for "Friends of Oxbow" (we come up as the first in the list) and become a Friend to keep current with Oxbow current happenings

## Birdathon Participation

Oxbow, Inc. wants to have as many birdwatchers as possible participate in the Birdathon. While there is a basic competition for the most species seen in the Birdathon area during 24 hours, there are many ways to compete besides most species for the total Birdathon area. To get your mind working, here are some possible categories of competition:

*-if not the entire Birdathon area then a portion-*

Most Species seen: in one state, in one county or a river watershed

*-maybe it is a small area-*

Most Species In One Location: like the Oxbow, back yard, or a big sit

*-maybe the type of team-*

Most Species seen: by a family, a group under the age of 20, a school class

*-maybe it can be a special category-*

Most money raised: by a team, an individual, a class

*-or-*

Most birds seen without using fossil fuel, while building a deck, taking the kids for a hike

*-or-*

Most birds photographed

You can even make up your own category. If it has anything to do with counting bird species in the Birdathon's 24 hour time window we will probably accept it.

Remember the purpose of the Birdathon is to raise money for improving Oxbow habitat and Oxbow accessibility projects. **The way to do it is to have fun birding! Then celebrate all the fun at the Grand Tally Party**

If you want to enter a team (or as an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon, please complete the form below. If you have any questions, **you can call Jay Stenger @ 513-522-4245 or Jon Seymour @ 513-851-9835**. We like to know how many are going to be participating on the Birdathon so that we can get the Pizza order right for the Grand Tally Party at the finish of the Birdathon.

### I want to enter a team (or as an individual) in the Oxbow Birdathon. (Birdathon 2011 Registration Form)

Organization Represented (IF Any) \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Team Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Team: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Team Members (or single individual) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Include a check made out to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. covering the team fee with this application. The team fee is used to cover the cost of the tally party.

**Mail to:**

**Oxbow, Inc  
9761 Winton Rd  
Cincinnati, OH 45231**



usings

by Dave Styer

### The Eurasian Collared-Dove

We are still catching up with last year's bird additions to the Oxbow area. In the January/February issue of *Wetland Matters* we reported on Ross's Goose, a bird whose population has increased dramatically in recent years. This time we write on the Eurasian Collared-Dove, a bird whose range extension makes that of Ross's Goose pale by comparison.

On November 24, 2010 Brian and Gale Wulker saw two Eurasian Collared-Doves at the Oxbow, a first for the Oxbow area. I view this record as one more piece of evidence of one of the most dramatic bird extensions in the past eighty years. In these articles I usually quote from *The Birds of North America*, subtitled *Life Histories for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, published from 1992 to 2003. The Eurasian Collared-Dove is such a newcomer that it wasn't even planned for the series. In June 1982 Worth Randle, my 1<sup>st</sup> wife, Myra, and I made a birding trip to Florida, including the Keys. We never saw one Eurasian Collared-Dove. In March 1999, I was in the Florida Keys and noted "dozens" of these doves. In the year 2000, I saw these birds in Tifton, Georgia, around 60 miles north of the Florida line. By now there are Eurasian Collared-Dove records throughout Tennessee. These doves are less frequent in Kentucky, but they have been seen as close to Cincinnati as Kenton County, KY. In Indiana most of the sightings have been in the western part of the state, and in Ohio there have been a few sightings, mainly in the northern part of the state.

In western United States the expansion of the Eurasian Collared-Dove has been as dramatic, or more so. In California I saw my first one in the southern part of the state in 2002. That was the same year that Don Roberson published the second edition of *Monterey Birds*. This thorough treatment of the birds of Monterey County, on the central California coast, doesn't mention Eurasian Collared-Doves. In 2005 I saw my first one at home in northern Monterey County. By 2010 these doves were widespread in the county wherever there is human settlement, and 50 to 100 can be seen at once at Moon Glow Dairy. By now there are numerous records in most western states, and even some records in Alaska.

You might think that this is just the story of the House Sparrow or European Starling all over again.

The sparrow and the starling were both introduced from Europe, and spread like wildfire across the country. However, I believe there is a difference, at least within historic times. To really see this, let's take a flight of fancy. Consider the Inca Dove, a cute little dove mainly of the southern parts of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Kenn Kaufman's *Birds of North America* describes it as:

A tame little dove of southwestern lawns.  
Very common in some towns and cities,  
less common in wild habitats.

Suppose that this year it started showing up all over Mississippi, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Suppose that five years from now it had spread throughout the South-East, and even up to the Cincinnati area, and that by 2021 it had spread through most of the lower 48 states. I think you would be saying "Whoa! Something about the Inca Dove has changed!" I would think that some mutation, or genetic change, had taken place allowing the Inca Dove to live in a brand new habitat.

Although I don't expect this to happen to the Inca Dove or any other bird in particular, this seems to be what did happen to the Eurasian Collared-Dove. Originally a bird of subtropical southern Asia, the Collared-Dove may have been brought by people to southeastern Europe. Around 1930 things suddenly changed. The collared-Dove started colonizing Hungary around 1930 and Czechoslovakia in 1938. By the mid-1940s it was spreading through Austria, Italy, and Germany. In the 1950s it reached France, Britain and Ireland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. By 1966 they bred in Finland. Eurasian Collared-Doves reached Spain, Portugal, and even Iceland by the 1970s. This bird has certainly changed; it is now anything but a bird restricted to subtropical areas.

According to the *Handbook of Birds of the World* (HBW) the Eurasian Collared-Dove was introduced into the Bahamas, made its way to Florida, and is spreading across North America. This bird is clearly the post-1930 model. We might say that the introduced House Sparrow is much the same. After all, it is certainly adapted to man. According to HBW it is conjectured that this adaptation happened around 10,000 years ago. That's pre-history. With the Eurasian Collared-Dove the change has happened before our very eyes. We are witness to a rate event.

**Birdathon Pledge Form for Birdathon 2011  
(May 6-7, 2011)**

Mail to: Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.  
Attn: Birdathon  
P. O. Box 4172  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

My Pledge for Birdathon 2011 is: Fixed Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Check Enclosed ( ) Bill me after the Birdathon  
(Be sure to pick a team to support with your check. It means a lot to the birders.)

**-OR-**

Per Species Pledge: (Circle One, you will be billed after the Birdathon):

\$ 5.00    \$ 4.00    \$ 3.00    \$ 2.00    \$ 1.00    \$ 0.75    \$ 0.50    \$ 0.25    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**My Pledge is to Support the following Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. Team:**

- \_\_\_\_ Highest Scoring Team  
 \_\_\_\_ Team #1 – Paul Wharton, Jay Stenger, Jack Stenger, and Joe Bens  
 \_\_\_\_ Team #2 – Jerry Lippert, Erich Baumgardner, and Wayne Wauligman  
 \_\_\_\_ Team #3 – Sister Marty Dermody, Katherine Miller, Sarah Krailler  
 \_\_\_\_ Team #4 – Dave and Jane Styer (West Coast Big Day)  
 \_\_\_\_ Team #5 – Jon Seymour and the First Timers  
 \_\_\_\_ Team # 6 – Steve Pelikan, Mike Busam, and Charlie Saunders

**Make checks payable to  
Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.**

**Note that this is a change to allow us to keep better track of the money for the purposes of habitat restoration and improved access. All donations to Oxbow of Indiana, Inc. are tax deductible.**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

*(A hunting permission slip with a confirmatory stamp and authorized signature will be returned to you upon acceptance of your application.)*

*Application and Memorandum of Understanding*

**I am a member in good standing of Oxbow, Inc.** and request permission to hunt on Oxbow, Inc. property east of I-275 as will be shown on the map affixed to the permission slip that must be carried while hunting on Oxbow property.

I agree: to hunt subject to the following Oxbow, Inc. rules:

- I will practice good hunting ethics at all times.
- Others may rightfully visit the area and my activity has no priority over that of others.
- During my use of Oxbow, Inc. property I will not litter, remove or damage Oxbow, Inc. property, or cause any habitat destruction.
- I will not leave any structures on the property (ie. hunting stands, duck blinds, etc.).
- I will carry a valid permission slip at all times while hunting on Oxbow, Inc. land.
- I will obey all applicable laws

I understand that hunting privilege will be revoked if any of the above regulations are violated. I understand that I enter Oxbow, Inc. property entirely at my own risk and hold Oxbow, Inc. free of liability for any hazards, known or unknown to it. I HAVE INCLUDED A COPY OF MY VALID INDIANA HUNTING PERMIT and A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE.

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Return Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

**HUNTING PERMISSION REQUESTS**  
**SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY**  
**JULY 1, 2011**

**(Hunting permission is granted for one year (July 1 to June 30 of the following year) only and must be reapplied for yearly.)**

Mail to: Oxbow, Inc.  
c/o John Getzendanner  
21007 Crestview Ct.  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
Phone: 812-537-5728

## **Oxbow, Inc. and Oxbow of Indiana, Inc.**

A nonprofit organization formed by conservation groups and concerned citizens of Ohio and Indiana for the purpose of preserving and protecting a wetlands ecosystem know locally as the Oxbow, Hardintown, or Horseshoe Bottoms, from industrial development and to preserve the floodplain at the confluence of the Great Miami and Ohio rivers for use as a staging area for the seasonal migrations of waterfowl. This agricultural area is rich in geological, archaeological, and anthropological history.

Help us save this unique wetland ecosystem. Make your state a richer place in which to live by helping us preserve this precious resource. **Membership in Oxbow, Inc. is encouraged and solicited.**

Prothonotary Warbler	\$ 15	Wood Duck	\$ 25
Great Blue Heron	\$ 50	Green-winged Teal	\$100
Great Egret	\$250	Osprey	\$500
Bald Eagle	\$1000		
Charm of Goldfinches (Group Level)	\$25		

Mail to: **Oxbow, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 4172  
Lawrenceburg, IN 47025  
513-851-9835

## **Corporation Officers**

President, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
Vice President, John Getzendanner	(812) 537-5728
Recording Secretary, Dwight Poffenberger	(513) 241-2324
Corresponding Secretary, Dennis Mason	(513) 385-3607
Treasurer, Jim Poehlmann	(513) 931-4072
Ohio Agent, Dwight Poffenberger	(513) 241-2324
Indiana Agent, John Getzendanner	(812) 537-5728

## **Committee Chairpersons**

Conservation, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
Easement Inspection, Mike Kluesener	(812) 623-7800
Education, Velda Miller	(812) 584-0187
Field Trips, Jay Stenger	(513) 522-4245
Land Management, Kani Meyer	(513) 948-8630
John Klein	(513) 941-4877
Programs, Kani Meyer	(513) 948-8630
Research, Dr. Steve Pelikan	(513) 681-2574
Speakers Bureau, Dr. Jon Seymour	(513) 851-9835
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*Wetland Matters, the newsletter for members of Oxbow, Inc., is published bimonthly.*

